

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 01315 041636Z

62

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

/058 W

----- 012895

R 041620Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8377

INFO AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 1315

BEIRUT PLS PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: IS IRAQ THAWING?

1. IN LAST COUPLE OF DAYS AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED TWO HINTS THAT IRAQ GOVERNMENT'S POSTURE TOWARD USG MAY BE THAWING SLIGHTLY. FIRST WAS COMMENT MADE BY DEPUTY AT IRAQI EMBASSY (WHO IS PRO-AMERICAN AND NO BAATHIST) THAT FOLLOWING SADDAM HUSSEIN'S RECENT MEETING WITH DAVID ROCKEFELLER GOI WAS CONSIDERING EXTENDING FEELER IN DIRECTION OF U.S. WE PRESUME BY THIS WAS MEANT FEELER RE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

2. SECOND HINT CAME FROM TUNISIAN MINISTER OF HEALTH MZALI WHO JUST RETURNED FROM FOUR DAYS IN BAGHDAD. MZALI TOLD ME HE WAS TOLD BY IRAQI OFFICIALS THAT GOI WOULD RESUME RELATIONS WITH USG IF USG WOULD DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM IRAQI KURDS. I SOUGHT TO CLARIFY FROM MZALI WHETHER IRAQIS ASSUME USG SUPPORTS KURDS AND WANT US TO DISENGAGE OR WHETHER IRAQIS MERELY WANT USG TO CONFIRM OFFICIALLY ITS EXISTING NON-SUPPORT OF KURDISH MOVEMENT. MZALI WASN'T SURE OF IRAQI MEANING BUT WHEN I EXPLAINED USG HANDS-OFF POLICY, HE THOUGHT IRAQIS MIGHT HAVE HAD IN
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MIND THE LATTER.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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